

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 347
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Julius Wade Till for his many years of dedicated service as Chair of the Knox County Democratic Party, and to congratulate him upon his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those worthy public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens, and who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community and political leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wade Till is one such noteworthy person who evinces the greatest of integrity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Till has been recognized as a vital force in the Knox County Democratic Party for his hard work and dedication in service of Party principles; and

WHEREAS, throughout his stellar tenure as Chairman of the Knox County Democratic Party, he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his hard work and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Till has worked tirelessly in many civic endeavors out of a sense of responsibility to his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with the Democratic Party, he is a highly respected member of the Knoxville community, who was recently awarded the Heart of Change Award from Community Shares, an organization that raises money for a diverse group of more than forty nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, a Mississippi native who was raised among sharecroppers, Wade Till has been involved in civil rights for as long as he can remember; and

WHEREAS, at the age of sixteen, he witnessed the event that galvanized his passion for racial equality, as when a young, African-American girl attempted to sit in an empty seat in the front of an overcrowded bus and was quickly reprimanded by the driver to return to the back of the bus; and

WHEREAS, from that moment, Mr. Till has been active in the struggle for civil rights and racial harmony, participating in sit-in protests and picketing local businesses that practiced racial segregation; and

WHEREAS, his remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Wade Till is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his service to the Knoxville community and the State of Tennessee and his ceaseless work toward racial harmony throughout this nation and the world, Mr. Till also fought for the freedoms of all people as a distinguished member of the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Julius Wade Till is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Till for his dedication to the Knox County Democratic Party, to the struggle for civil rights, and indeed to all citizens of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Julius Wade Till for his honorable and astute work as the Chair of the Knox County Democratic Party, thank him for his many years of service to the good people of Tennessee during a lifetime of work in promoting racial harmony, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.